

## **Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday April 2, 2007**

Present: Janice O'Brien, Kenn Jones, Larry and Jessica Lubowsky, Tina Sturdivant, Jack Karcz, Bill and Noreen Johnson, and Jean Ragonese.

The meeting began at 7:10 PM

Mrs. O'Brien opened the meeting by asking all members their thoughts on where the open space committee should proceed from this point on into the future. She asked if anyone had suggestions for another project to work on, or any other items needing to be addressed by the committee.

Mr. Jones asked where discussions were at with the properties recently evaluated by the committee. Mrs. O'Brien reported that results from a few parcels were brought to the attention of the Conservation Commission and there are discussions going on about how to proceed.

Mrs. Johnson asked if a follow up meeting with the landowners present at the Landowner Workshop in January was going to take place. Mrs. O'Brien recollected that we were going to wait two to three months before contacting the landowners and would most likely send out a follow up letter/thank you note. The follow up meeting which was going to take place at a home in town is on hold for the time being. Mrs. Johnson also asked if Mike Speltz was still in contact with some of the landowners. Mrs. O'Brien confirmed that he was.

Mr. Karcz felt that the committee should think about what the goals are of the Open Space Committee and formulate an Open Space Plan to prioritize goals and come up with areas of town that rank high for conservation projects or Open Space sub-division. Mr. Karcz gave two examples of areas in need of work, possibly exploring the need for Open Space Zoning of areas in town that are of high conservation value and pushing to place the Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission input in the loop of Design Review. Design Review is a new step that builders and developers need to bring to the Planning Board so development plans can be reviewed and commented upon prior to involving significant money expenditure. Mr. Karcz felt that if the Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission had goals and a plan, it would assist in advocating for open space sub-divisions within town where appropriate.

Mrs. O'Brien asked the committee what should be the criteria for determining which areas in town to prioritize for open space sub-divisions. She stated that the NRI text should be completed prior to coming up with an Open Space Plan so that information is available to the committee. It was suggested that the committee look at the Wildlife Action Plan maps, Watershed Protection Maps and the Wetlands Inventory Maps that Mark West is preparing and should be available to use in the next month or so.

Mrs. O'Brien asked if the committee would like to proceed with property evaluations, beginning with the largest blocks of land that are not developed. There was a discussion about the property evaluating criteria and if modifications should be made. There was a consensus to keep the

criteria as is and evaluate properties with the end goal of creating an Open Space Plan for Fremont. There was a vote taken. All members present were in favor of this project.

Mr. Karcz stated that it was important to find out what other communities that surround Fremont are doing and trying to establish contact and working cooperatively. Mrs. Sturdivant stated that she could network with other members of the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC). ERLAC is comprised of all towns within the Exeter River Watershed and most of the members serve on their own towns Conservation Commission. Mrs. Sturdivant will report any information back to the committee next meeting.

Mrs. O'Brien asked if the committee wanted to continue meeting through the summer months or to take off. At this point the committee was favorable to meeting in May and June and recessing for July and August.

At the May meeting committee members can expect to begin evaluating properties on and around Beede Hill Road.

A motion was made by Kenn Jones to accept the meeting minutes from March 6, 2007. Bill Johnson seconded the motion, with all other members in favor.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 1, 2007 at 7PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Karcz and seconded by Mrs. Sturdivant. .  
Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sturdivant